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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 238 Press/Mis.

485-86

Dated 24-1 1887.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department, 16th January 1867.

No. 140. Read the following Despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort Saint George; dated India Office, London, 7th December 1866, No. 45.

I have considered in Council your Despatches in the Revenue Department, noted in the margin, submitting further reports relating to the distress prevailing in different districts of your Presidency from want of food, and as to the measures taken for relieving the wants of the people.

No. 37, dated 24th August 1866.
,, 39, ,, 14th Sept. ,,
,, 40, ,, 22nd ,, ,,
,, 43, ,, 9th October ,,

2. I deeply lament the suffering to which the poor population have been exposed in large portions of your Presidency, and the mortality which has been caused by Cholera and other diseases following in the wake of scarcity.

3. The measures of your Government, which have been in general accordance with your Resolution of the 25th July, appear to have been marked by liberality and promptitude, and there seems good ground for believing that those measures, in conjunction with the operations of the Central Relief Committee at Madras, have been the means of mitigating most materially the prevalent distress.

4. I notice with great satisfaction that the latest reports from the suffering districts, including Bellary, where the visitation has been felt with peculiar severity, are very reassuring, the rainfall having been abundant, and the appearance of the crops being generally promising. Under the most favorable circumstances, there will, however, be classes of the population which will require eleemo[illegible] help for some time to come, and I do not doubt that your Government will [illegible] the propriety of granting assistance, in the way of loan or otherwise, to those among the poor agriculturists who may have lost their cattle, and who, without such aid, might be unable to replace them.

5. I approve the employment of Mr. Ellis, the Sanitary Commissioner, on the duty of reporting on the prospects of the season, and the measures of relief which will probably still be temporarily required; and I shall await with interest the results of his mission.

6. I observe that the Collector of Madura, in his letter of the 6th August, called attention to the great benefit which would arise if the waters of the Periaur river were diverted from their natural channel, and brought into the Madura District; and the Assistant Collector of Bellary, in the same way, with reference to the gradual rise in prices and the deteriorating condition of the people in that district, strongly urged the importance of making use of the waters of the Toongabadra river for the purpose of irrigation. It would appear from the remark recorded by your Government, with reference to the proposed diversion of the Periaur, that the scheme was already under the consideration of your Government; and with regard to the suggestions for the utilization of the Toongabadra in Bellary, the recommendations submitted in the letter from your Government, in the Public Works Department, of 25th August last, No. 42, have been communicated to the Madras Irrigation Company, and your Government will be apprised of the result of the correspondence with all practicable dispatch.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
16th January 1867.

7. The measures of the local authorities, and the conduct of the Police on occasion of the grain riots at Madras, have been dealt with in the Judicial Department. I have, therefore, only to express my entire approval of the Resolution recorded by your Government, and communicated to the several public bodies concerned, that you will afford effectual protection to the grain merchants in the pursuit of their business, and will not allow any interference with the prices which they may see fit to put on their commodities.

No. 141. ORDER THEREON, 16th January 1867, No. 64.

The foregoing Despatch will be communicated to the Revenue, Public Works, and Judicial Departments, for the issue of such orders as may be necessary.

2. Copies of the despatch will be, also, furnished to the Sanitary Commissioner and to the Famine Relief Committee at Madras, for information.

(True Extract).

G. J. Arbuthnot
Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue Department.
" Public Works do.
" Judicial do.
" Sanitary Commissioner.
" Famine Relief Committee.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

Lid

No. 238

238

Comm^d to the Supg Engineers of the 3^d & 8th Divns – The Perryaur Project, in the Madura Dt, is now being investigated by Captains Ryves and Payne, and the Govt. hope shortly to have the plans & estimates laid before them in a complete form.

W S E 3 & 8 Divns
Pub Dept.
Dated 25 Jany/67

Fort St George
24th Jany 1867.

10 spare Copies

P W 1867 Depa

Pro: of Govt for January

No 225

Pro: of the Madras Govt

in the Public Depa

Dd 16 } Jany/67

Recd 22 }

No 64.

Communicating Despatch from the Secy: of State regarding the distress prevailing in different parts of this Presidency and the measures adopted for relieving the wants of the people.

No. 238 - 24th Jany 1867.

Write an [illegible]

No. 485 - 486